

## IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

WINTER 2004

DOH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM RESPONSE TO INCREASED  
INFLUENZA VACCINE DEMAND

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This year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) strongly encouraged vaccination against influenza disease for children 6-23 months of age. As in recent years, the vaccine continues to be recommended for individuals up to 19 years of age designated as high risk due to pre-existing medical conditions or being a household contact to a person at risk for severe complications of the disease.

The early arrival of influenza in Washington State this fall, public concern about the potential disease severity, aggressive

private promotional campaigns, and extraordinary media attention resulted in increased demand for influenza vaccine this year. The increased vaccine demand strained both private and public vaccine supplies. The Department of Health received and distributed a total of 108,290 doses of flu vaccine this year, quadrupling the amount of vaccine purchased in prior years.

Program staff investigated numerous vaccine sale offers from marketing and brokering firms, and kept LHJs informed about the lack of legitimacy of

most of these offers. We have participated in the development of numerous news releases regarding influenza disease and vaccine supply, and worked closely with the CDC, other programs across DOH, and our LHJ partners to mitigate the challenges presented during the 2003-2004 flu season.

For more information, please contact: Jan Hicks-Thomson at [Jan.Hicks-Thomson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Jan.Hicks-Thomson@doh.wa.gov) or 360.236.3578 or

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCALLY IDENTIFIED LHJ ACTIVITIES—2003



Your leadership and participation in community based immunization efforts increase Washington's progress toward improved immunization rates! A summary of activities identified through your year-end con-con reports as significant achievements, is included below. This list is not comprehensive, but does provide a way of thanking you, and providing some recognition for the work you have done in 2003.

The following LHJs promoted immunization through school based clinics and school outreach: Adams, Benton-Franklin, Clallam, Columbia, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, and Walla Walla. Provider education and outreach efforts continued in 2003, and were noted by the following counties: Asotin, Benton-Franklin, Chelan-Douglas, Lincoln, Okanogan,

Seattle-King, Tacoma-Pierce, Whatcom, and Whitman. The following counties made special efforts to enroll providers in CHILD Profile: Clark, Cowlitz, Okanogan, Whitman, and Whatcom. These counties did excellent work with coalitions and community relations: Asotin, Chelan-Douglas, Clark, Cowlitz, Grant, Northeast Tri, Seattle-King, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima.

**Many thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to Immunization!**

## SUMMARY OF GLOBAL PROGRESS TOWARD UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) set a goal in 1992 for all countries to integrate hepatitis B vaccination into universal childhood vaccination programs by 1997. A total of 151 (79%) of 192 WHO member states adopted universal hepatitis B coverage by 2003. Only 126 (66%) had done so by 2001. Through these programs, approximately 32% of children aged <1 year were vaccinated fully with the three-dose vaccination series. Seventy-six WHO member states have a policy for administering the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine soon after birth. It

is the goal of WHO and CDC for hepatitis B to be introduced in all countries by 2007 and for coverage with the three-dose series to reach 90% by 2010.

The U.S. immunization rate of 89.9% for children 19-35 months of age receiving 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (based on the 2002 National Immunization Survey) has nearly reached the Healthy People 2010 objective of 90%. According to the 2002 National Immunization Survey, Washington State's hepatitis B immunization rate reached 84.9% for children 19-35 months of age for the

three-dose hepatitis B series.

Thank you for your efforts in advancing the goal of full immunization against hepatitis B. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and our other valued stakeholders to reach the Healthy People 2010 goal for Washington State.

More information on global progress toward universal childhood hepatitis B can be found in MMWR Volume 52/No.36. (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5236.pdf>) For more information, contact Shana Johnny at [shana.johnny@doh.wa.gov](mailto:shana.johnny@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3598.

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## COALITION ACTIVITIES

### CLARK COUNTY

Immunization Champions received special awards at the Infant Immunization Coalition of Clark County Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The recipients of the 2003 Immunization Champions awards were Kathy DeHart, Family Physician Group-Memorial Campus, and Darrin Cook, Family Physician Group-Fisher's Landing Campus. For more information, you may contact Robin Kratz at 360-397-8403.

The criteria for Immunization Champion include:

- Desire to prevent vaccine preventable diseases.
- Identified as the "immunization expert" in a clinical setting.
- Knowledgeable about immunization.
- Uses current immunization resources
- Stays current through classes about new recommendations.
- Stores and handles vaccine properly.
- Monthly accountability reports are on time and accurate.
- Offers all immunizations recommended at the time of the visit.

### SPOKANE COUNTY

The Immunization Action Coalition of the Inland Northwest (IACINW) is hosting a four-part educational series entitled, "Immunizations: Building the Foundation for a Healthy Future." The first two presentations were a great success. The first, "Tools of the Trade" covered proper immunization technique, site selection, and needle size. The second, "Building to Code" focused on required and recommended vaccines.

The next talk will be in February. "Nailing it Down" will address proper documentation. The series takes place at St. Luke's in Spokane and is also available through Telehealth for rural communities. For more information, please contact Cindy Jobb at 509-324-1607.

If your coalition has activities you would like shared via the LHJ Up-Date Newsletter, please submit articles to: Ganel Baker, at [Ganel.Baker@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Ganel.Baker@doh.wa.gov). Submissions for the next Newsletter are due March 5th, 2004.

## AFIX CORNER

### A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

This year, Darlene Agnew, Immunization Program Coordinator for Yakima Health District, completed AFIX Site Visits on three of the Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinics: Yakima Valley, Toppenish and Grandview, and was able to parley this into an opportunity to educate all area Farm Worker Clinics about the value of AFIX for improving immunization rates. Darlene was asked by Carlene A. Brown RN, Director of Risk

Management for Yakima Valley Farm Workers, to present the AFIX results at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the directors for all Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinics.

Joining Darlene in the presentation were Michelle Hofmann, and Karen Arbogast, AFIX Coordinator and Public Health Nurse Consultant respectively for the Washington State DOH Immunization Program. Farm Worker Clinic staff from a broad geo-

graphical area of the Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinics participated in the meeting. The results from the AFIX site visits at the three-featured Farm Worker Clinics showed significantly high rates. Darlene indicated that, "The nurses (in these three clinics) are not 'shot shy' and are giving all the recommended childhood immunizations." Participants discussed what was working to keep immunization rates consistently high and how to improve rates for

children in the 15 – 18 month age range.

Farm Worker Clinics outside Yakima expressed a great deal of interest in duplicating the success of these three clinics, and requested AFIX assessment visits for their sites as well.. AFIX Site Visits really are a tool that can be used in building great partnerships with providers. These partnerships build trust, Health District credibility, and increase immunization coverage.

## MARSHALL ISLANDS MEASLES OUTBREAK

A measles outbreak of over 1000 cases, with 80+ hospitalizations and three deaths, hit the Western Pacific Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in mid-July. Majuro, the main island with a population of 25,000, bore the brunt of the outbreak. The Marshallese Ministry of Health (MOH) quickly requested and received assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Immunization Program Public Health Advisor, Carlos Quintanilla, volunteered and reported to Majuro for a Sept. 22-Oct. 6 assignment. Though the outbreak had calmed, much work remained, particularly in the area of assisting MOH staff with instituting CDC-recommended measures.

The work included receiving and recording new cases and vaccination reports, and ensuring case contact investigations. Marshallese Public Health workers tirelessly pursued these investigations. Majuro is very densely populated. On one home visit, outreach workers encountered 34 inhabitants in four rooms. These conditions, as well as low immunization coverage rates, played a major role in measles transmission.

CDC personnel identified numerous ways to prevent future vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. They worked to assist the Marshallese to institute programmatic changes, including enacting school-entry regula-

tions and improving disease surveillance methods. Vaccine management needs further evaluation and improvement. Outreach teams found numerous measles patients with documented proof of two MMR doses. Record-keeping needs continued improvement. An active reminder/recall system and regular immunization assessments would also help.

Carlos found the opportunity to again work on public health's front lines sometimes difficult and less than comfortable, but it served as a reminder of the meaning of the work we do. For more information, please contact Carlos Quintanilla at [carlos.quintanilla@doh.wa.gov](mailto:carlos.quintanilla@doh.wa.gov) or 360.236.3506.

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## IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

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## STAFF CHANGES

Margaret Hansen, Amy Ferris, Cindy Gleason, and Bob Hayes have left the Immunization Program to pursue other opportunities within the Department. During the transition time, Jan Fleming, the MCH Office Director, will be the acting program manager. The program manager position should be filled by mid-Spring. Teresa Deming joined the Immunization Program staff on January 5<sup>th</sup> as the Budget Coordinator, the position formerly held by Amy Ferris. The Health Educator position should be filled by mid-March. During the recruitment period for the Vaccine Management Lead position, other Immunization Program staff will continue to provide customer service to the LHJs.

## IMMUNIZATION/VACCINE MATERIALS

New Links from CDC for foreign language Vaccine Information Statements (VIS's), available on the Immunization Action Coalition's (IAC) website (<http://www.immunize.org/>).

1. **Hindi Translations.**

California has had five VISs (hepatitis A, hepatitis B, MMR, varicella, and pneumococcal conjugate) translated into Hindi.

2. **Spanish FluMist.** The Spanish translation of

the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) VIS has also recently been posted.

3. **Rabies VIS.** A VIS for rabies has just been approved, and was posted on the NIP site on November 4, 2003.

The *Guide to Contraindications to Vaccinations and the Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices* are now available and can be ordered from CDC's website. <https://>

[www2.cdc.gov/nchstp\\_od/  
PIWeb/niporderform.asp](http://www2.cdc.gov/nchstp_od/PIWeb/niporderform.asp)

The Immunization Program has recently sent you copies of the following documents. Additional copies are available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/>.

- Standards for Child & Adolescent Immunization Practices (additional copies will be mailed with the 2004 Provider Agreements)
- Standards for Adult Immunization